30 December 1980

Mr Thomas Hammarberg
Secretary General
Amnesty International
10 Southampton Street
London WC2E 7HF

Dear Mr Hammarberg,

Thank you for your letter of 27 November.

The Islamic Council of Europe greatly appreciates your having written to General Eyren regarding the arrest of Dr Erbakan and his colleagues on political grounds.

For your information, I have recently received a letter from the Turkish Ambassador in which he states that my own letters to General Evren were forwarded and that he has been informed by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs that Dr Erbakan and his colleagues of the National Salvation Party will be tried by existing Turkish law and that no special court has been set up. He concludes with a personal statement that their trial will be conducted in absolute impartiality by the independent Turkish judges. This is of course good news, as long as it is an accurate reflection of the position.

Regarding Iran, I am afraid that we have no factual information on the cases you mention. If you have been able, since writing, to secure such information, we should be most grateful if you would pass it on to us.

Assuring you of our full cooperation,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam
Secretary General